

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

In the claims:

1-15 (withdrawn)

16. (currently amended) A textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing comprising:

at least 90% water;

0.05% to 0.07% of a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;

0.083% to 0.25% of a first activating compound selected from the group of: salts of organic acids, a transitional metal, transitional metal salts, transitional metal complexes and combinations thereof;

optionally, 1.0 ppm to 0.10% of a second activating compound selected from the group of: organic amine derivatives, pigments, and combinations thereof;

0.03% to 0.10% caustic soda; and

0.3% of hydrogen peroxide;

wherein said textile treatment bath composition starts with a ~~slightly alkaline~~ pH greater than 9.7.

17. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16, wherein said first activating compound is a salt of an organic acid is selected from sodium salts of citric acid, sodium stearate, sodium salts of gluconic acid, sodium oleate, potassium salt of citric acid, potassium stearate, potassium salt of gluconic acid, potassium oleate, ammonium salts of citric acid, ammonium stearate, ammonium salts of gluconic acid, ammonium oleate, and combinations thereof.

18. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 17, wherein said salt of organic acid is about 0.2 to about 5.0% based on the weight of the substrate.

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

19. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16, wherein said second activating compound is an organic amine derivative selected from urea, dicyandiamide, tetra-acetyl-ethylene-di-amine, acetyl-caprolactam, and combinations thereof.

20. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 19, wherein said organic amine derivative is about 0.2 to about 5.0% owg.

21. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16, wherein said first activating compound is a transitional-metal complex selected from copper gluconate, copper sulfate, copper acetate, copper carbonate, copper citrate, copper nitrate, copper EDTA, copper complexes, and combinations thereof.

22. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 21, wherein said transitional metal is about 0.1 to about 10ppm based on the weight of the bath.

23. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16, wherein said second activating compound is a pigment selected from pigmented Sulfur Black 1 with a particle size less than 150 $\mu$ m, fully pre-oxidized sulfur dyes, and combinations thereof.

24. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 23, wherein said pigment is selected from Diresul Black 4G-EV and Titanium Dioxide.

25. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 23, wherein said pigment is about 1 to about 200ppm owb.

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

26. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16, wherein said non-foaming scouring/wetting agent is selected from ethoxylated fatty alcohol and propoxylated fatty alcohol.

27. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 26, wherein said non-foaming scouring/wetting agent is about 0.1 to about 1.5% owg.

28. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 16 further comprising a peroxide stabilizer.

29. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 28, wherein said peroxide stabilizer is selected from an organo-phosphate based agent, an amino-organic acid based agent, an organic acid based agent, a polyacrylic acid based agent, an earth alkaline salt, and combinations thereof.

30. (previously amended) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 29, wherein said organo-phosphate based agent is Diethylenetriamine penta(methylene phosphonic acid), said amino-organic acid based agent is Diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, said organic acid based agent is Sodium salt of Gluconic Acid, and said earth alkaline salt is  $Mg^{+2}$  salt.

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

31. (currently amended) A textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing comprising:

at least 90% water;

a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;

a first activating compound formed of a mixture of urea and copper

gluconate;

optionally, a second activating compound selected of a pigment;

caustic soda; and

hydrogen peroxide;

wherein said textile treatment bath composition starts with a slightly alkaline

pH.

32. (new) A textile treatment bath composition according to claim 31, wherein said second activating compound is a pigment selected from pigmented Sulfur Black 1 with a particle size less than 150 $\mu$ m, fully pre-oxidized sulfur dyes, and combinations thereof.

33. (new) A method for preparing textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing comprising the steps:

providing a vessel;

providing agitation and a source of heat;

providing at least 90% water;

providing a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;

providing a first activating compound selected from the group of: salts of organic acids, a transitional metal, transitional metal salts, transitional metal complexes and combinations thereof;

providing caustic soda;

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

providing hydrogen peroxide; and  
mixing water with said non-foaming scouring/wetting agent, said first  
activating compound, caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide.

34 (new) A method for preparing textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing according to Claim 33 with the further providing a second activating compound selected from the group of: organic amine derivatives, pigments, and combinations thereof and mixing said second activating compound with water, said non-foaming scouring/wetting agent, said first activating compound, caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide.

35. (new) A textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing comprising:  
at least 90% water;  
a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;  
a salt of an organic acid;  
caustic soda; and  
hydrogen peroxide;  
wherein said textile treatment bath composition starts with a pH greater than 9.7.

36. (new) A textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing according to claim 35 with the further addition of tetraacetyl ethylenediamine.

37. (new) A cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate that has been prepared for dyeing by a treatment bath comprising:  
at least 90% water;  
a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;

Attorney's Docket: 1999US001  
Serial No.: 09/738,623  
Art Unit 1751

a first activating compound selected from the group of: salts of organic acids, a transitional metal, transitional metal salts, transitional metal complexes and combinations thereof;

optionally, of a second activating compound selected from the group of: organic amine derivatives, pigments, and combinations thereof;

caustic soda; and

hydrogen peroxide;

wherein said textile treatment bath composition starts with a pH greater than

9.7.

38. (new) A textile treatment bath composition for pre-treating a cellulosic, or cellulosic blends with synthetic fiber, substrate prior to dyeing comprising:

at least 90% water;

a non-foaming scouring/wetting agent;

a first activating compound selected from the group of: salts of organic acids, a transitional metal, transitional metal salts, transitional metal complexes and combinations thereof;

Sulfur Black 1 as a second activating compound;

caustic soda; and

hydrogen peroxide;

wherein said textile treatment bath composition starts with a pH greater than

9.7.